

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03467 281601Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----282222 074470 /67

R 281120Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 3467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJ: FAHMY COMMENTS ON LIBYA

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY FEBRUARY 26, HE ASKED
WHETHER LIBYANS HAVE RECENTLY APPROACHED US ABOUT
IMPROVING RELATIONS. (I ASSUME HE MAY HAVE HEARD
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS FROM AMBASSADOR TUHAMI
IN TRIPOLI.)

2. I TOLD HIM WE HAD INDEED HAD A LOW-LEVEL APPROACH
TO OUR CHARGE SUGGESTING A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE
LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. THE LIBYAN
OFFICIAL INVOLVED HAD CHARGED THAT USG IS PRIMARILY
RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVENTING SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. WE
HAD NOT RESPONDED TO EARLIER LIBYAN DESIRE AGAIN EXCHANGE
AMBASSADORS AND WERE STILL HOLDING EIGHT LIBYAN-BROUGHT
C-130'S. LIBYAN OFFICIAL HAD ALSO LAID GREAT STRESS
ON QADHAFI PUBLIC STATEMENT OPPOSING TERRORISM.

3. FAHMY LAUGHED AND SAID HE WAS SURE WE ARE FULLY
AWARE THAT, REGARDLESS OF QADHAFI'S PUBLIC CLAIMS,
LIBYAN SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS CONTINUES UNABATED. HE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 03467 281601Z

HOPED USG WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH LIBYAN DISSEMBLING.
HE NOTED SOMEWAHT UNEASILY THAT GOE HAS THE IMPRESSION
SOME AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT MAY STILL BE GOING INTO
LIBYA AND ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF OUR POSITION.
I TOLD HIM I WAS UNAWARE OF ANY US MILITARY EQUIPMENT
BEING SENT TO LIBYA. ALTHOUGH EIGHT C-130'S HAD EARLIER
BEEN SENT, ANOTHER EIGHT SUCH AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO BE

HELD IN US, PARTLY IN DEFERENCE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S
EARLIER URGING.

4. TO AVOID ANY FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING, I ALSO MENTIONED
TO FAHMY THAT IN 1972, WE HAD AGREED TO AN ITALIAN
REQUEST TO PERMET SOME CHINOOK HELICOPTERS
MANUFACTURED IN ITAY UNDER GENERAL ELECTRIC LICENSE
TO BE SOLD TO LIBYA. IN ADDITION, THE SALE BY THE ITALIANS
OF SOME (A) ARMORED PERSONNEL VEHICLES, (B) SELF-
PROPELLED 155 MM HOWITZERS (CHASSIS ONLY OF AMERICAN
MANUFACTURE), (C) RECOILESS RIFLES AND (D) SOME HIGH
EXPLOSIVE ANTI-TANK AMMUNITION HAD AT THAT TIME BEEN APPROVED. IT
WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME OF THIS MATERIAL
MIGHT RECENTLY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY THE ITALIANS.
I REMINDED FAHMY THAT THE SITUATION IN 1972 WAS
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT HAS BEEN PAST TWO YEARS
OR SO.

5. FAHMY ASKED IF THESE ITALIAN DELIVERIES COULD NOT
BE STOPPED. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT IS NO
LONGER POSSIBLE FOR USG TO DO SO, SINCE CONTRACTS HAD
BEEN MADE BY ITALIANS AND GOI CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO
KEEP REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.
FAHMY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
IFSU
LIANS SHOULD ASK TO BE AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL
SALES, USG WILL NOT AGREE. ANY WESTERN ARMS GOING
TO LIBYA, FAHMY ARGUED, WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE QADHAFI AND
FURTHER DESTABILIZE ME SITUATION.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 03467 281601Z

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